

by the railroads. Since the founding of the Commission there has never been a time of equal length in which any-thing like so many reduced tariffs have been put into effect. On August 27, for instance, two days before the new law went into effect, the Commission received notices of over five thousand separate tariffs which represented reductions from previous rates."

Koosevelt's correspondence during the year shows the usual wide range of his interests both inside and outside the public service. On February 1, 1906, he wrote a long letter, which he addressed to each of the chairmen of the naval committees of the Senate and the House, urging a modification of the law against hazing in the Naval Academy. As it stood, the law required that a cadet convicted by court martial on a charge of hazing should be dismissed and be ineligible for appointment as a commissioned officer in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps during a specified time. "These provisions," wrote the President, "seem to me neither just nor judicious, and I am seriously concerned at the injury which I fear may be done to the discipline of the Academy and even to the future 'efficiency' of the Navy if they are permitted to remain in force-without amendment. I heartily disapprove of the practice of hazing, and, in common with all those interested in the welfare of the Academy, wish to see this practise thoroughly eradicated there. But the punishment of dismissal is altogether disproportionate to the

culpability  
involved in some forms of hazing. In many  
cases, these  
amount to nothing more than exhibitions of  
boyish mischief  
attended with no consequence of any moment  
to those  
hazed, and indicating on the part of the hazers  
only some  
exuberance of animal spirits. Unquestionably  
they ought  
to be punished, for under any circumstances  
hazing con-  
stitutes a breach of the rules, and the future  
officers of  
our Navy must be taught, first of all and as a  
foundation  
for all other merits, strict and unquestioning  
obedience.  
But to punish those faults of youth by  
depriving the young